

EXHIBIT 16  
DATE Jan 21, 2013  
HB 7

**Delphia Melstone Canal Water Users Association**

**Melstone, Montana**

**Lynn Rettig – Manager**

**January 14, 2013**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

This letter is in regard to Deadman's Basin application to the DNRC for RDG grant. Deadmans Basin is an essential part of the Musselshell River irrigation system. We at DMCWUA are highly dependent upon stored water that comes from Deadman's Basin. The Musselshell River rarely delivers natural flow water to our section of the River past the middle of June. It is then that we depend on stored water from Deadman's to supply our irrigators with essential irrigation water. Our dependence on Deadman's water cannot be overstated. To repair and keep the inlet head gate and diversion dam in good condition is primary for storing water and the ultimate health and conservation of water on the Musselshell River.

Lynn Rettig



Manager – Delphia Melstone Canal Water Users Association



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## Lower Musselshell Conservation District

109 Railway East  
Roundup, Montana 59072

January 14, 2013

Subject: Replacement Diversion Dam for Deadman's Basin Water Project

Applicant: DNRC-WRD

To whom it may concern:

Deadman's Basin Water Project was completed in 1941, and since then, has allowed 160 ranch families to irrigate 30,000 acres annually, and has provided municipal water for three towns. Because of the 2011 flooding, the diversion dam was cracked and undercut, and is on the brink of failure.

This grant request would provide some of the estimated project cost to replace the existing structure with a rock-ramp diversion dam, that would provide fish passage and would be more cost effective to construct than a concrete diversion dam. DNRC and Deadman's Basin Water Users will be providing the remaining costs for the project.

Lower Musselshell Conservation strongly supports this project because of the benefit it will have for the irrigators and municipalities along the river.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Shirley Parrot, Supervisor and Vice Chairman

Lower Musselshell Conservation District



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January 14, 2013

To whom it may concern:

The Upper Musselshell Water User's Association (UMWUA) supports the RDG application being submitted by the Deadman's Basin Water User's Association (DBWUA) for the replacement of the inlet canal diversion dam, which has direct and indirect impact to 160 ranch families and 3 towns.


This diversion structure is in need of replacement after the flood of 2011. Currently it creates dangerous hydraulic conditions for recreationists, project managers and water commissioner. It is also a barrier to any fish attempting to move upstream for forage and spawning.

The proposed rock ramp diversion has many benefits over the existing concrete structure such as: more cost effective, allows for fish passage even at low flows, and allows water during low flows to pass via an integrated sluice gate.

As the project manager for the Upper Musselshell Water User's Association I have a great understanding of the importance of infrastructure improvement to more effectively conserve our water resources. I believe that this project is a step in the right direction for the water users, the river and the fisheries.

Your favorable consideration of this request would be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Leon B. Hammond  
Project Manager

# Musselshell Watershed Coalition

... benefiting water users and the river  
by practicing basin-wide cooperative management

## - Partners

Deadman's Basin Water  
Users Association

Delphia-Melstone Canal  
Water Users Association

Garfield County  
Conservation District

Lower Musselshell  
Conservation District

Mosby-Musselshell  
Watershed Group

Petroleum County  
Conservation District

Upper Musselshell  
Conservation District

Upper Musselshell Water  
Users Association

## - Agencies

Montana Dept. of  
Environmental Quality

Montana Dept. of  
Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana Dept. of  
Natural Resources  
& Conservation

Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

January 13, 2013

Subject: Deadman's Basin Diversion Dam

To Whom It May Concern:

The Musselshell Watershed Coalition (MWC), representing four Water Users Associations and four Conservation Districts operating along the entire main stem of the Musselshell River, strongly supports DNRC-Water Resources Division application for a RDG to help fund replacement of the diversion dam that supplies water to Deadman's Basin Reservoir. Water users are also providing significant funding for this project.

The Diversion Dam project is one of many on the Musselshell River that resulted from damages sustained during the devastating flood of 2011. The diversion dam directly impacts water availability for 150 irrigators, and indirectly, over 250 irrigators, who rely on a stable off-stream water storage for the Musselshell.

This critical infrastructure project meets RDG's criteria of having statewide significance in two important ways: (1) it provides a valuable demonstration project for providing new fish passage design on a Montana plains river, and (2) it supports a basin-wide cooperative approach to water management on 300 miles of river, balancing the needs of water users with the needs for a healthy floodplain and viable fisheries.

Thank you for your consideration of our support.

Respectfully,



Bill Milton  
MWC Facilitator

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